procurement by FCI for Public Distribution System in the different States; and

(b) the action proposed to share the high expenditure on transportation with the State Governments to make PDS successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As far as possible, the stocks are issued by the FCI to the States/UTs from the nearest depot/rail head and in case the distance is above 14 Kms., the transportation cost incurred by the States/UTs is reimbursed by Government under the Reimbursement of Transportation Charges (RTC) Scheme.

In view of the high cost of transportation involved in the predominantly hilly States, the cost of transportation of foodgrains from the designated base depots to the approved Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) is reimbursed to the concerned States on actual basis.

Buffer stock of sugar

1693. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build up two million tonne sugar buffer stock;

(b) whether it is a time bound programme; if so, the details thereof with outlay involved; and

(c) whether there have been problems faced by the farmers to receive arrears from the sugar mills or cases of short payment to them; if so, the action taken by Government to help them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) As on 30.9.2002, the cane price arrears are estimated to be around Rs. 1100 crores. In order to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane growers, Government has decided to create a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar for a period of one year. This will involve an outgo of

Rs. 412 crore from the Sugar Development Fund. An additional amount of Rs. 374 crore would be released by banks on account of the buffer stock.

Foodgrains for PDS

†1694. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains required for distribution under PDS for the families living below and above poverty line in various States, particularly, in Bihar and Jharkhand during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantity demanded, allocated and actual offtake by the said States during the above period;

(c) the actual price of the foodgrains during the said period and the price at which these foodgrains were provided to the families living Below Poverty Line; and

(d) the positions of FCI with regard to profit and loss in the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The present total allocation of foodgrains (APL, BPL and Antyodaya families) in various States is 28.78 lakh tonnes of rice and 30.53 lakh tonnes of wheat per month under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

The quantity of foodgrains allotted to Bihar and Jharkhand during last three years, year-wise and quantity lifted by these States are as under:—

(*Quantity in* '000 *tones*)

		Allocation		Offtake	
		BPL	APL	BPL	APL
1		2	3	4	5
1999-2000					
Bihar	Wheat	618.480	242.560	641.930	17.080
	Rice	412.320	95.040	234.350	2.220
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	--

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.